

**Barnes Team Ministry**  
**The Parish Church of St. Mary Barnes**

Minutes of the meeting of the Parochial Church Council held  
on Tuesday 17th May 2011 in the Ellerton Room

Present: Richard Sewell (chair), Peter Boyling, Annie Sullivan, Christabel Gairdner, Raymond Chapman, Michael Murison, Paul Teverson, Eddie Hartley, Alison Collins, Vassos Alexander, Judy Gowing (secretary), Phil Bladen, Celia Cleave, Ken George, Juliet Hogan, Patrick Findlater, Rosie Findlater  
Apologies were received from: Loraine Budgen, Geoffrey Barnett

---

The meeting was preceded by Evening Prayer led by Christabel Gairdner

Agenda  
item

- 1 Welcome to new members Ken George and Alison Collins and to returning members: Vassos, Celia, Annie, Michael, Loraine Budgen and Geoffrey Barnett.
- 2 It was agreed to coopt Raymond Chapman (proposer: Patrick Findlater seconder: Phil Bladen) and Patrick Findlater (proposer: Alison Collins; seconder: Juliet Hogan). Judy Gowing was appointed as PCC Secretary (proposer: Patrick Findlater; seconder: Peter Boyling)
- 4 Minutes of the last meeting on 8 March 2011 were approved without comment and signed.
- 5 Matters arising: The Rector hoped the Council had all seen the wording St Mary's had submitted on women bishops which had been in the pew sheet for several weeks. The issue had not yet been discussed in Deanery Synod, but would make for an interesting session as all PCCs were expected to submit their views.
- 6 Role of PCC and PCC members: The Rector thought it would be useful to review the role of the PCC and its members. He outlined the guiding principles and emphasised that this was not an exhaustive list. PCC Powers Measure 1956 outlines the functions as:
  - controlling expenditure within the parish
  - looking after the maintenance of the building
  - co-operation with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical
  - discussing matters concerning the Church of England or any matter of public or religious interest
  - having representatives in the Deanery Synod

The Council works alongside the Vicar/Rector with a structure of subcommittees. All PCC members are encouraged to serve on one or more committees which helps to give them a prism through which to view the church's life. PCC members are in the forefront of life of the church, taking a lead for the congregation. They should be present at services – Sunday being key, but also trying the Thursday Lunchtime Eucharist, or Morning Prayer or evensong, or a bible study group. Members should be encouraging and supporting other people to try different services too.

Members represent the views of the congregation and are a conduit to feed back ideas and comments. Every opinion is valid. PCC should be seeking to hear what is going on. Pastoral care is not exclusively the role of clergy and SPAs. It is every Christian's duty to care for those around us and not leave it to someone else.

Evangelism: The Rector encouraged the Council to think about how we are sharing and promoting the gospel. Social activities are an important part of the role. They deepen relationships between all sorts of people. Ecumenical: it is important to support Team activities to strengthen the links between the Team churches, and more widely with the other local churches through Churches Together in Barnes (CTiB).

The Rector told the Council that it was important to assume corporate responsibility for decisions taken by PCC, even if they did not agree with them. He suggested that Ken and Alison, as new members of the PCC, look back at previous PCC minutes to brief themselves on the history of various issues.

- 7 Appointments: Alison Collins was appointed by the Council to represent St Mary's on the Team Council.

Lucie Brodie has resigned as editor of BiC. Vassos Alexander said he would consider the possibility of replacing her. Rosie Findlater has assumed the role of Head Gardener. Nobody has volunteered for the role of Barnes Fair Co-ordinator this year, so the Council was urged to seek an appropriate candidate for 2012. The role is principally concerned with advance publicity and co-ordination of all the different elements on the day. It is another PCC duty to identify potential candidates for vacant positions.

- 8 APCM: The Rector asked for feedback on the format of the meeting and the papers. There was general agreement that both were good. It was suggested that the meeting be held at different times of the day and week to try to encourage other people to attend. The Rector's address has been posted on the website and has been available in printed form at the back of church for a number of weeks. Draft minutes of the APCM have been circulated. Members were urged to read them although they would not be approved until the next APCM.

- 9 Children: Following the consultation with interested parties, 'Sunday Club' for children will be starting on 12 June during the 10.00 Parish Communion. JulieAnn Sewell and Cate Summers are co-ordinating. The 11.30 service is targeted at children up to 7 years old. The Sunday clubs (in two groups) will be aimed at children of 7 & 8 year olds and 9 & 10 year olds although it will be flexible. The groups will begin their sessions together, split into the two groups and then rejoin the congregation in church in time for the peace and the rest of the service, which allows approx 30-35 mins.

The possibility of having communion at the 11.30 service occasionally was raised. The Rector agreed and has planned to do so approx. every six weeks. All Age services would also be regular features. It was suggested that occasionally the All Age service should be at 11.00 or 11.30, rather than always asking the Family Service congregation to adapt.

- 10 Youth: The Rector said it is also important to have a strategy for older children & teenagers and there is a lot of energy within St Mary's. It was harder to get people to work with teenagers and it is likely that a youth worker would have to be employed. It is necessary to plan for finances so this might be a longer term project. It was likely to be a Team-wide project. It was suggested that teenagers should also be encouraged to participate in church life in any way appropriate to them.

- 11 Stewardship: Juliet Hogan reported that a Stewardship campaign was being planned and it was hoped to launch it by the end of May. The Rector emphasised that stewardship was not just about money. It was important to review how much had been received by the grace of God and consider how to contribute in return. It is important to support the Fairer Shares scheme which allows some less wealthy churches to remain functioning. It was suggested that there should be some form of acknowledgement and thanks for increased or new giving and this was agreed.

- 12 Finance: On a proposal of Patrick Findlater, seconded by Peter Boyling, the Council resolved nem con that the capital and interest in the Kennedy Grave Trust, the Jacobson Grave Trust, and the Pullen Grave Trust (Church Fabric Fund), held by the Diocese on behalf of the PCC, be realised and credited to the Quinquennial Building & Maintenance Fund.

An announcement to this effect would require advertising on the Church noticeboard for a month prior to sale in case of any objection. The proceeds would be credited to the Quinquennial Building & Maintenance Fund, along with the proceeds of other small trusts which the PCC had previously agreed should be realised. He also drew the PCC's attention to the fall in giving to the General Fund in the first quarter compared with 2010. Should this be continued, it would have serious consequences. Barnes Charity Players had donated £1,500 to the Kitson Hall fund, to be spent solely on the sound system.

- 13 Mobile phone mast on the Tower. The Rector had received a request from NET that a mobile phone mast be installed on the church tower and the PCC's decision was sought as to whether to take this forward. The diocese knows the company and has worked with them many times before. Two operators were reported to be interested in having their mast on the tower. The mast would be disguised in the flagpole, looking almost identical. Eddie Hartley had a number of concerns about how NET would maintain the equipment and whether scaffolding would be needed. It was noted that the equipment would not prevent the tower being open to the public. If the PCC agreed to approve the resolution provided by NET, all ensuing costs of consultation with lawyers and financial advisors would be borne by NET. It was a resolution to agree to proceed to the consultation period, without any commitment to complete if the consultation was unfavourable. The congregation and the wider community would be canvassed in the consultation process. The wording of the resolution made a number of members uneasy. As the public consultation would not be run by St Mary's, the church had little if any control over it. There was also discussion about the amount of money being offered and whether it was appropriate.

It was decided to delay the decision making and to revisit at a later meeting, after The Rector had had an opportunity to speak to other churches that had experience of NET and of mobile phone masts. It was suggested that a representative for NET be invited to address the next meeting to answer all the queries and anxieties being voiced. It was also agreed that the resolution should be re-drafted and circulated well in advance of the next meeting.

- 14 As the previous discussion had taken some time, the reports of the committees were not heard.

- 15 AOB:

Raymond Chapman said there would be no transcript of his talk on the King James Bible on 25 May, but that he was happy for it to be recorded.

Rosie Findlater reported that it had been suggested we create a Garden of Remembrance to honour Brenda Moore. The Rector agreed that this should be considered.

The meeting was closed with a prayer.

Dates of future meetings:

19 July, 17 September (All day PCC) replacing planned meeting of 20 September,  
18 October,  
22 November